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Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Health of Desborough

for the year

1938,

by

THOMAS O. GARLAND,

M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

DESBOROUGH:
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HEALTH CENTRE,
MARKET STREET,
KETTERING,

June, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Desborough
Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. BOSWORTH AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban District for 1938.

I would like to thank the Public Health Committee, the Clerk, Mr. Tyldesley, and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Harris, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS O. GARLAND,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Area (acres)	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4425	4419	4403	4395	4394
Number of Live Births ...	48	54	41	60	56
Legitimate ...	47	51	40	59	54
Illegitimate ...	1	3	1	1	2
Birthrate per 1000 population	10·85	12·22	9·31	13·65	12·74
Number of Still Births ...	2	5	1	2	5
Legitimate ...	2	5	1	2	5
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ...	40	84·74	23·81	32·26	81·97
Rate per 1000 population ...	0·45	1·11	0·23	0·45	1·14
Number of Deaths ...	53	40	49	43	46
Death rate per 1000 population (corrected) ...	11·97	9·05	11·58	10·17	10·89
Infantile Mortality rate per 1000 live births ...	41·66	74	73·17	50	71·43
Total Maternal Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Other Puerperal causes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Death rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	0·45	0·91	1·36	0·23	0·23
Death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis ...	0·45	0·91	1·59	0·45	0·23

Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1938.

	Rate per 1000 population.		Annual Death rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Total Deaths under One Year	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
England and Wales ...	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	53	5.5
126 County Boroughs and great Towns including London ...	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	—	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	57	7.8
148 smaller Towns (estimated resident population 25,000—50,000)	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	—	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	51	3.6
London ...	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	—	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	57	13.1
Desborough Urban District	12.74	1.14	10.89	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.43	Nil

The Maternal Mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows	Puerperal Sepsis.		Others.	Total.
	{ per 1000 live births	{ per 1000 total births		
The Maternal Mortality rates for Desborough Urban District—	{ per 1000 live births	0.89	2.19	3.08
	{ per 1000 total births	0.86	2.11	2.97
	{ per 1000 live births	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	{ per 1000 total births	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	2,400
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid.-1938	...	...	...	4,394
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)				
according to Rate books	...	...	...	1,365
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£20,273
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£80

The chief occupations of inhabitants are as follows :—Boot and shoe manufacture, corset manufacture, manufacture of cardboard boxes and rigid containers, ironstone quarrying, farming.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS.		TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Legitimate	...	54	28	26
Illegitimate	...	2	1	1
Totals		<u>56</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>27</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 12·74

STILL BIRTHS.		TOTAL.	MALES	FEMALES.
		5	2	3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 81·97

DEATHS		TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
...		46	22	24

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 10·89

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			nil

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	71·43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	55·56
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	500·00
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)		nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	...	nil
Cancer	...	6

As compared with the year 1937 the death rate is higher by 0·72 per 1,000 of the population, and the birth rate is lower by 0·91.

The birth rate exceeds the death rate by 1·85 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of deaths registered was 46, of which 22 were males and 24 were females.

The crude death rate per 1,000 of the population was 10·47 which, multiplied by the comparability factor, 1·04, supplied by the Registrar-General, gave a corrected death rate of 10·89 as compared with 11·6 for England and Wales. This death rate of 10·89 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex constitution of the population of Desborough were distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

The registered causes of death were as follows :

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL
All Causes	22	24	46
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			
2. Measles			
3. Scarlet Fever			
4. Whooping Cough			
5. Diphtheria			
6. Influenza			
7. Encephalitis Lethargica			
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever			
9. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system	1	—	1
10. Other tuberculous diseases			
11. Syphilis			
12. General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis, etc.			
13. Cancer	2	4	6
14. Diabetes	—	1	1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	2	3
16. Heart Disease	5	3	8
17. Aneurism			
18. Other circulatory diseases	2	6	8
19. Bronchitis	1	—	1
20. Pneumonia (all forms)			
21. Other respiratory diseases			
22. Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1
23. Diarrhœa (under 2 years)			
24. Appendicitis			
25. Cirrhosis of Liver			
26. Other diseases of Liver	1	1	2
27. Other Digestive diseases			
28. Acute & Chronic Nephritis	3	1	4
29. Puerperal Sepsis			
30. Other puerperal causes			
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	3	1	4

32.	Senility	...	...	—	1	1
33.	Suicide	...	...	1	1	2
34.	Other violence	...				
35.	Other defined diseases	...		1	3	4
	(a)	Smallpox				
	(b)	Polio-myelitis				
	(c)	Polio-encephalitis				
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown					

SECTION B.—General provision of Health Services for the area.

The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for Burton Latimer Urban District, Rothwell Urban District and Kettering Rural District and is, in addition, Assistant County Medical Officer.

The office of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor is a joint appointment and the officer is a member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers and of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

(a) Laboratory facilities.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations are undertaken by the Clinical Research Association, Limited, London, and at the County Public Health Laboratory and at the Northampton General Hospital Laboratory. The following specimens were examined:—

Swabs (for Diphtheria)	1
Blood	3
Faeces	1

(b) *Ambulance facilities.*

Infectious cases are removed by a motor ambulance stationed at the Isolation Hospital in the Kettering Borough, and non-infectious and accident cases are removed by ambulance under the efficient administration of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(c) *Nursing in the Home.*

(1) General. —The Desborough Nursing Association affiliated to the County Nursing Association makes the services of a whole-time nurse available for general cases.

(2) Infectious Diseases.—The services of a special nurse in certain specified cases of infectious diseases are available under arrangements made between the local and County Nursing Associations and the County Council.

(d) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*

Persons suffering from venereal diseases are treated at Northampton General Hospital by arrangement with the County Public Health department.

The County Council is the authority for the treatment of Tuberculosis and the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly at the Health Clinic, Market street, Kettering.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held in Kettering and children from Desborough may attend by arrangement with the County Public Health department.

Under the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly in Desborough. Extra accommodation for prams. has been provided.

(e) Hospitals

The following hospitals are available for inhabitants of Desborough :—

Kettering Infectious Diseases Joint Hospital.
 Rushden House Sanatorium.
 Kettering and District General Hospital.
 London Road Public Assistance Hospital, Kettering
 Leicester Royal Infirmary.
 Northampton General Hospital.
 Manfield Orthopædic Hospital.

(f) Contraceptive Clinic.

A contraceptive clinic is conducted by Dr. Mary Hendrie at the Infant Welfare Centre, Eyechurch Lane, Northampton, on the third and fourth Thursday in each month. Appointments can be made for the attendance of suitable cases on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

SECTIONS C and E.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Report by ARTHUR HARRIS, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., A.R.S.I.
 Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Water.

A full and sufficient supply was maintained throughout the year.

Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination were reported as being satisfactory.

The water mains were extended in Braybrooke Road to serve the new housing site and in Breakley's Road to meet the development taking place in this area.

Reference was made in the report of last year regarding the construction of a concrete water tower of 50,000 gallons capacity. This work together with the alterations of the water mains to form a high level zone has been completed. The plant is now well served with a good and constant supply. The improvement of the pressure in this zone has been greatly appreciated.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been well maintained and the effluent has been uniformly good.

Open Space, Gladstone Street.

During the year Dr. Gerald Gibbons of Rothwell offered a site in Gladstone Street and a sum of money to assist in its development as an open space, in memory of his father, Dr. H. Gibbons, who for many years was the esteemed Medical Officer of Health to the Council. The gift was gladly accepted and the site has now been laid out with flowering shrubs, seats, etc. The garden has beautified this part of the area and makes a very restful spot for the older inhabitants.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

During the year 275 houses were inspected. The reasons for inspections were as follows :

HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

Routine inspections made under the Housing Acts, etc.	...	...	275
Infectious Diseases	...	...	5

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS, ETC.

Infectious diseases	...	...	5
„ re-visits	...	...	10
„ visits to schools	...	...	4
Factories and workshops	...	...	18
Bakehouses	...	...	6
Milkshops and dairies	...	...	28
Slaughter-houses, etc.	...	...	94
Pigstyes	...	...	2
Cinema	...	...	4
Rooms disinfected	...	...	5
Statutory notices served under Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	nil
Informal Notices (all complied with)	...	...	29

Nuisances referred to the following :

Choked drains	...	...	71
Dirty w.c.'s	...	...	3
Defective drains	...	...	14
„ w.c.'s	...	...	6
„ automatic flushers	...	...	4
„ paving	...	...	8
„ roofs	...	...	9
„ spouting	...	...	3
Structural defects	...	...	8
Defective sash cords	...	...	10

Factories and Workshops.

Two notices were served referring to insufficient and defective w.c.'s.

During the year the Medical Officer of Health inspected the following factories and workshops.

Boot factories	...	...	6
Corset factory	...	...	1
Rigid Container factories	...	...	2
Hand Cutting Machine factory	...	...	1
...			<hr/>
			10

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The administration of the above Act again received full attention.

Poison baits laid were found to have been taken. A rat week was held and 486 rats were destroyed.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action in this connection has been necessary.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—One hundred and one samples of milk offered for sale were sent for bacteriological examination during the year. The results were as follows:

- (a) Eighty-three were good.
- (b) Eleven were moderate.
- (c) Seven were bad.

Slaughter-houses.—The three slaughter houses in the town were frequently inspected and were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

No carcasses were condemned.

Inspection of food.

The usual periodical inspections of food exposed for sale were made. On no occasion was it necessary to take any action.

Cowsheds.

One cowshed in the district has been improved during the year and provided with low mangers, modern tubular fittings and the floors and channels laid to meet present day requirements.

In previous years a report by the local veterinary inspector, Mr. Trevor Spencer, to the Joint Dairies and Cowsheds Committee has included Desborough Urban District. At the beginning of April, 1938, the inspection of cows contributing to the public milk supply was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Mr. Spencer was allocated a district which included part of the County not under the jurisdiction of the Kettering Committee. As there would be some difficulty in sorting out those which belong or do not belong to the area of the Joint Dairies Committee, it has been decided, this year, to omit a report from Mr. Trevor Spencer.

SECTION D.—Housing.

Twenty-six houses were built during 1938 by private enterprise. Twelve were erected by the Council.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	275
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	275

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regu- lations, 1925	...	...	117
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	117
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	83
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...		61
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notice.</i>			
Number of defective dwelling-houses ren- dered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	27
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</i>			
(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served re- quiring repairs	...	...	Nil

(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :			
(a)	By owners	... ..	<i>Nil</i>
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	... ..	<i>Nil</i>
(2) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :			
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	<i>Nil</i>
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a)	By owners	... ..	<i>Nil</i>
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	... ..	<i>Nil</i>
(3) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	... ..	19
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	13
(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	... ..	<i>Nil</i>
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	<i>Nil</i>

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.*

(1) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	... ..	12
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein		12
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein		94
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	<i>Nil</i>
(3) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	6
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	50
(4)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowd- ed after the local authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding		<i>Nil</i>
(5)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	... ..	<i>Nil</i>

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector were asked by the Council to make a survey of certain unsatisfactory houses in the district. This survey was carried out in the spring and 117 houses were visited. A special report on them was presented to the Council in June. Following consideration of this report the Council took action with regard to the worst of the houses, scheduled in Group I. The decision as to what procedure should be adopted with the remainder was deferred.

SECTION F.—Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases, excluding tuberculosis, notified during the year was 5. This figure shows a decrease of 2 on the number for 1937 and compares with 15 for 1936, 11 for 1935, 15 for 1934 and 6 for 1933.

An analysis of the notified cases appears in the following table :—

Infectious Cases Notified during 1938.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	AGE PERIODS												Total Cases Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all Ages	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	
Smallpox ...														
Scarlet Fever ...	4			1	1		1	1					2	Nil
Diphtheria ...														
Pneumonia ...														Nil
Enteric Fever ... including Paratyphoid Fever														Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Erysipelas ...	1							1					1	Nil
Total	5			1	1		1	1	1				3	Nil

Smallpox.—No case of this disease occurred in the Urban District during 1938.

Scarlet Fever.—Four cases of scarlet fever were notified showing an increase of 1 on the number for the preceding year; two were removed to hospital. The remaining cases were nursed at home under favourable conditions.

The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever antitoxin is available, free of charge, to practitioners, for the treatment of necessitous cases of scarlet fever.

Diphtheria.—No case was notified during the year.

Erysipelas.—One case was notified and removed to hospital.

Tuberculosis.—The following figures show the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1938.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	9	21
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	1	6
			—
	Total Cases	27	—

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during 1938 as compared with 8 cases in the previous year.

Particulars of new cases and deaths from the disease are shown below

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality, 1938 :—

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—								
1—								
5—								
15—	1				1			
25—								
35—								
45—								
55—								
65—								
TOTALS	1				1			

The death-rate from all forms of tuberculosis per 1,000 population was 0·23 as compared with 0·45 for 1937; 1·59 for 1936; 0·91 for 1935 and 0·45 for 1934.

The occupation of the 1 case notified was that of shoe-operative.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis from engaging in the milk trade. It was unnecessary to take action under these regulations during 1938.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis, which is a serious risk to others, may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

